

# BASIC SCHOOL COMPOSTING RECIPE

**3 PARTS CARBON:** brown, woody, dry materials such as fallen leaves, sawdust, straw, newspaper, or paper towels. Bulky materials, including branches should be chopped or shredded.

**1 PART NITROGEN:** green, wet materials, such as food scraps, grass clippings, plant material, and manures.

**MOISTURE** (just a little, like a damp sponge)

**A LITTLE SOIL OR FINISHED COMPOST**

**AIR**

**A COMPOST BIN**

**A SHOVEL OR PITCH FORK**

**AND STUDENTS**



- Mix a variety of materials in the compost bin by **alternating a layer of "carbon" or dry, brown materials**, with a **layer of "nitrogen" or wet, green materials**.
- Sprinkle a little **water on each layer** so that the materials are moist, but not soggy. Or, leave the lid off the compost bin if it is raining.
- Top it off with a **thin layer of soil** or already finished compost.
- Mix or turn the composting materials to allow air to flow through. The more the materials are turned the faster the compost will be finished.
- Turning the composting materials 1-2 times per week will make compost in about 6 months, depending on what materials are being composted and the temperature outside. All organic materials decompose, so even if the pile is not turned very often it will eventually make compost.

**DO NOT COMPOST** meat, bones, grease, or milk.